



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

"Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things." ~ Peter Drucker, writer and professor

Friday, April 4, 2008

The American Red Cross recently held blood drives for staff at Westville Correctional Facility and Indiana State Prison. There were thirty-two volunteers and twenty-five accepted donations from WCC, and there were seventeen volunteers and thirteen accepted donations from ISP.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recently made an \$800 contribution from a PLUS fundraiser to the Hope Haven Horse Farm of Coatesville. The farm serves at-risk children from local schools, mental health clinics, and the juvenile justice system by using horses as an alternative teaching method of anger management, communication, responsibility, conflict resolution, and self-confidence.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility recently held its largest GED graduation ceremony. Ninety-nine staff, students, and family members were in attendance to watch sixteen students, including four who had previously been released, be honored.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's Future Soldiers Unit participated in "Operation DOC Cares" by putting together boxes of donated items to mail to DOC staff currently deployed overseas.

A representative from Lincoln Tech visited Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility to speak with residents who are interested in building their technical skills once released. Informational packets were available, and there was a question and answer session.

Fifty-three offenders received certificates for completing the PLUS program during a ceremony at Indiana State Prison. Virgil Madden, Advisor for Minority Affairs to Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, was the keynote speaker.

As part of Camp Summit's ongoing effort to prepare all students for a successful re-entry, recruiters from the Indiana Army National Guard gave a presentation to all students this week on possible career opportunities. Several students have expressed interest in joining the National Guard.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recently hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet and honored 46 volunteers for their time and energy dedicated to staff and offenders. Entertainment was provided by the facility drama team, who sang and performed music.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently introduced fourteen new ministers to the joys and challenges of prison ministry. The ministers were brought in by Michael Alley, pastor of the Elwood Church of God, and the ministers toured the facility and held a worship service in the CIF chapel.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility recently hosted its second PREP Marriage Strengthening Weekend, where thirteen couples participated. Offenders came from the PLUS, CLIFF, and Inside/Out Dads programs, and staff from WVCF, Branchville, and Central Office led the weekend's activities.

Superintendent Brett Mize began his first day at Pendleton Correctional Facility by meeting with department heads to outline his expectations, objectives, and plans for the facility.

Hillcroft Services began teaching an employment skills building class to residents of the Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility. The class focuses on improving the way that one presents himself to an employer, interviewing properly, and obtaining skills needed to maintain employment once hired.

Staff and offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program made and donated 1,000 pink ribbons to be worn by participants in the Susan G. Coleman "Race for the Cure."